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S O C I A L

SECTION 1

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

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VITAL STATISTICS

1. In January, the Department of Public Health and Welfare compiled statistics on mortality by age groups throughout South Korea for the period from April through December 1946 (see January 1948 SKIG ACTIVITIES). For this same period, a special study was made of infant mortality (children under five years of age). The number of deaths from April through December 1946 was 173,305. Of these, 62,198 (36 per cent) were children under five years of age. The accountable diseases were listed in the special study as follows:

a. Measles accounted for 18 per cent of the deaths. These were due almost entirely to the complication of bronchopneumonia.

b. Pneumonia alone was listed as the cause of death in 14 per cent of the cases.

c. Meningitis was third among specific diseases, causing eight per cent of the deaths.

d. Influenza and dysenteries were listed next as causes of death in this age group.

e. Smallpox was the cause of four per cent of the deaths. Practically all deaths due to smallpox occurred in April and May 1946, during an epidemic.

f. This study, together with a preliminary analysis of the first six months of 1947, showed that the largest number of deaths in this age group occurred during March, April and May.

2. An incomplete tabulation of deaths among children under five years of age during the first seven months of 1947 indicated a decrease in the mortality rate from

1946. The percentage distribution of the diseases causing death, however, remained approximately the same, except for smallpox, which was not prevalent in 1947.

3. The most striking conclusion pointed out in this study was that 40 per cent of the deaths in children under five years of age (those caused by bronchopneumonia and measles, pneumonia and meningitis) could be prevented through use of penicillin and/or sulfonamides.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

Communicable Diseases

4. During January and February 1948, diseases reported in the highest incidence were typhus, typhoid and diphtheria, all usually prevalent in winter months. The incidence of none of these has been particularly high, and the figures so far compare almost identically with those of the corresponding period in 1947.

5. In January 1948, a total of 267 cases of typhoid was reported throughout South Korea, compared with 454 cases reported in January 1947. The highest incidence of this disease in January 1948 occurred in Kyongsang-pukto, where 64 cases were reported. Next in incidence were Chungchong-pukto, Chungchong-namdo and Kyonggi-do. A few cases were scattered throughout other provinces, with the island of Cheju-do the only province in which this disease was not reported. The lowered incidence over January 1947 followed the widespread typhoid immunization program carried out in September and October 1947.

6. During January 1948, 201 cases of typhus were reported, as compared with the practically identical figure of 200 in January 1947. By the end of February 1948, a total of 134 cases of typhus had been reported from Kyongsang-pukti since outbreak of the disease in that province seven weeks before. The original 46 cases authenticated in January (80 were reported; laboratory diagnosis in South Korea and Japan reported positive diagnosis of louse-born typhus in 46 cases) occurred in Kyongsang-gun (county), Kyongsang-pukto. During the latter part of February, 34 new cases were reported in another gun of Kyongsang-pukto, some distance from the site of the original outbreak. Control measures were carried on throughout the month in Kyongsang-pukto as well as Chungchong-pukto, Kangwon-do and Kyonggi-do, where minor typhus outbreaks occurred. Kyonggi-do reported 50 cases during January, most of them in the northern sector around Kaesong. The incidence was small in all other provinces, and in practically every instance, investigation revealed reported cases to be diseases other than typhus. Again, as in typhoid, the only province in which typhus was not reported was Cheju-do.

7. Diphtheria was reported during January and February from every province in South Korea except Cheju-do. Kyongsang-namdo, the City of Seoul and Kyongsang-pukto, in that order, had the greatest number of cases. Diphtheria has presented a problem, since the supply of toxoid and antitoxin in South Korea has been very low. A widespread immunization program was impossible in 1947. Recently, however, larger supplies of toxoid have been acquired, and plans are being made for its production in South Korea. The problem of diphtheria treatment can only be solved by making available far more antitoxin during 1948. Korean doctors in general have a very poor conception of the treatment of this disease, using very small doses of antitoxin, as they were instructed by the Japanese. Attempts are being made to educate them in the proper use of antitoxin, but this obviously will be impossible until an adequate supply is made available.

8. Cases of relapsing fever, bacillary dysentery and smallpox were sporadic and very small in number during the first two months of 1948. Probably more relapsing

fever was present than statistics showed, because this disease often is mistaken for typhus or typhoid. Although no statistics are available on measles, the disease appears to be fairly widespread throughout South Korea in children under two years of age. Because of poor living conditions in Korea, bronchopneumonia has been a frequent complication, accounting for a considerable percentage of the infant mortality. This is primarily due to the inadequate supply and ignorance in the use of sulfonamides and penicillin.

Venereal Disease Control

9. The National Venereal Disease Center in Seoul, opened early in December 1947, gradually has been increasing its patient load. By the end of February, between 200 and 300 patients were being seen each week. The treatment of venereal disease continued on a smaller scale at provincial hospitals and clinics throughout South Korea.

10. On 14 February, Public Act No. 7, prohibiting public prostitution, went into effect. As part of the implementation of this act by the Department of Public Health and Welfare, arrangements were made in all provinces where licensed prostitution existed for the examination of all prostitutes prior to that date. All those found to be in infectious stages of venereal disease (including all cases of gonorrhea and those syphilis cases showing primary or secondary lesions) were forcibly isolated and treated until non-infectious. Upon release, syphilis patients not considered cured were urged to continue treatment on a voluntary basis. Figures on the number of prostitutes treated are not available, but it is estimated that the total was in the neighborhood of 500.

11. The Welfare Bureau of the Department of Public Health and Welfare has developed policies covering welfare functions and responsibilities in connection with the rehabilitation of former prostitutes. These policies are:

- a. Welfare funds may be used to provide food and other essentials where necessary.
- b. Following proper clearance by health authorities, assistance in returning home may be given those who live at some distance with no means of getting there.
- c. Those unable to support themselves may apply for relief assistance in the regular manner. Relief will be given on the basis of need in accordance with established allowances.
- d. It is inadvisable to establish a special rehabilitation program which will maintain the identity of these women as former prostitutes. They will have greater opportunity for adjustment to normal life if they receive the same treatment as any other citizen needing assistance.
- e. No special appropriation from national funds will be available to the provinces for this program.

MEDICAL SERVICES

12. A shipment of 296,000 vials of penicillin has been received from the United States and will be allocated to all provincial wholesalers by the Department of Public Health and Welfare. Sale to all hospitals and registered doctors made this the

first allotment to be distributed for use by the public.

13. The Medical Services Bureau reported two conferences in February. The outstanding event of a two-day conference of hospital superintendants was a visit to the U. S. Army 34th General Hospital, near Seoul. The 30 doctors attending the conference saw for the first time how an American hospital looked and operated. At a conference of all Directors of Provincial Public Health and Welfare Departments held on 16 and 17 February in Seoul, the following questions were discussed:

a. Health centers in South Korea. There are two well-equipped centers in Seoul. A third recently was opened in Chongju, Chunchong-pukto. Centers are planned for every province in South Korea.

b. New financial plans for provincial hospitals. New plans will allow hospitals to use their incomes, instead of turning them over to the provinces. Profits will be used to pay current expenses, make repairs and give bonuses to all employees.

c. Importance of establishing leper villages. It is impossible to institutionalize all of the approximately 30,000 lepers in South Korea, but leprosy could be fairly well controlled if the lepers were congregated in villages where they could receive regular treatment. A census of the lepers in each province is being made in order to systematize admissions into the leprosaria, and to aid in establishing small leper villages in strategic areas in the provinces. So far, five such villages have been started. There now are eight dispensaries outside the leper colonies where treatment with the newer drugs is given.

d. Standards and appearance of the general hospitals. With funds available from current income, much should be accomplished in repairs and improvements (see b. above).

e. National, provincial and private orphanages. These institutions still require careful supervision from the Department of Public Health and Welfare. Medical care and schooling for the children, as well as orphanage management, must be supervised and improved.

14. Taiku Medical School, the only co-educational medical school in South Korea, began its second semester during the latter part of February. The enrollment of 300 students included 14 women.

15. By the end of February, 16 technicians and doctors, mostly from the provincial hospitals, had attended the classes in X-ray techniques and diagnostic methods at the Masan Tuberculosis Sanitarium (see January 1948 SKIG ACTIVITIES).

NURSING AFFAIRS

16. During February, two adult manakins, 21 infant manakins and 10 obstetrical models were received from the United States. These will be sold to Korean hospitals having schools of nursing, in order to supplement their very inadequate teaching material.

17. Several inspection trips by officials of the Bureau of Nursing Affairs were made to hospitals in the City of Seoul during February. The Severance Union Hospital, the City Contagion Hospital and the National Venereal Disease Center all showed fine prospects and improved hospital management, treatment and nursing care.

18. A one-month refresher course in Public Health Nursing opened in Seoul on 23 February. Sixteen public Health Nurses from the City of Seoul attended.

19. Capping ceremonies were held on 29 February for 18 student nurses who satisfactorily completed the first six months probationary period in their three-year training course at Seoul Sanitorium School of Nursing. The class included three male students, the first to be admitted to a school of nursing in South Korea.

VETERINARY AFFAIRS

20. The first two in a series of four weekly refresher courses for licensed veterinarians were held in February. Thirty-one veterinarians attended the first course and 43 the second. All provinces in South Korea were represented. The courses, conducted at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Seoul National University, were sponsored jointly by that college and the Bureau of Veterinary Affairs, Department of Public Health and Welfare. The curricula included training in the use of newer drugs in veterinary medicine as well as instruction in principles of meat inspection and techniques of diagnosing and handling animal diseases. Demonstration slides, film strips and other visual aids were used in addition to lectures. The third and fourth courses are scheduled for the weeks beginning 1 March and 6 March.

21. Work by the Bureau of Veterinary Affairs was practically completed in February on a veterinary training film strip. The film, entitled "Restraint of Animals" and with captions and script in the Korean language, is of the type extensively used by U.S. Military Forces. It will be used in presenting scientific techniques to large audiences of Koreans, particularly groups who do not understand English.

22. The Eastgate Slaughterhouse, closed on 23 January because of lack of proper sanitary facilities, was undergoing repairs as February ended. The Butcher's Association has set aside 2,000,000 won for the necessary improvements. Although the establishment is operated by (and is a source of revenue for) the City of Seoul, the city was unable to provide funds for making the repairs required from the standpoint of public health.

Ordinance No. 163.

23. Ordinance No. 163, "Sanitary Standards of Seafood and Seafood Establishments," providing a system of inspection to maintain the sanitation of the edible seafood supply in Korea, was published on 23 January and went into effect 10 days later. Primary responsibility for inspections and for issuance of rules and regulations governing sanitary standards was placed in the Department of Public Health and Welfare.

24. The Ordinance requires all seafood establishments to have sanitary permits, issued by the Department of Public Health and Welfare. The Provincial Bureaus of Public Health and Welfare may refuse to grant or may suspend any permit, after due notice and hearing. All seafood establishments must be kept available for inspection by an inspector of the Provincial Bureau of Public Health and Welfare during usual business hours. The inspector may condemn any fresh or processed seafood which does not meet sanitary requirements, and may cause it to be destroyed. Anyone violating Ordinance No. 163 shall, upon conviction by a duly constituted court, suffer such punishment as the court may determine. Following conviction, the Provincial Public Health and Welfare Bureaus may revoke or suspend the sanitary permit for any period of time.

PHARMACEUTICAL AFFAIRS

25. The total value of pharmaceutical supplies distributed in February amounted to 3,869,484 won. Most of the 374 professional and technical books received from the United States were distributed to medical and pharmaceutical colleges and provincial Public Health and Welfare Bureaus.

26. Inspections early in February of plants manufacturing medical supplies indicated that the chief obstacle to efficient operation was a shortage of coal. Three hundred tons were made available by allocation as follows:

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| For plants mfg. glucose powder | 50 tons |
| For plants mfg. sterile injections | 140 tons |
| For plants mfg. sanitary cotton items | 58 tons |
| For mfg. of ointments | 10 tons |
| Other | 42 tons |

27. At a meeting of the Korean Pharmacopoeia Establishing Committee on 14 February, it was announced that the translation into Korean of the Japanese Pharmacopoeia will be completed by May. At the present time the Japanese Pharmacopoeia is considered the standard authority for Korean pharmacists. Its translation into Korean, with inclusions from the U.S. Pharmacopoeia, will give Korea its first pharmacopoeia.

NARCOTICS

28. A school for narcotics officers of the Department of Public Health and Welfare, conducted from 18 to 28 February, was attended by 38 officers representing all the provinces of South Korea. Instructors from the Department of Justice, the National Police and the National Chemical Laboratory gave lectures on various phases of criminal investigation. Several misunderstandings concerning narcotics control were clarified.

29. The governor of Cholla-namdo submitted to the National Office the names of 72 employees of Cholla-namdo Public Health and Welfare offices, who will act as narcotics agents within the guns. They may perform investigations and inspections when indicated, and have been delegated the power of arrest. It is contemplated that in most instances they will make preliminary investigations and then call provincial narcotics agents.

LABORATORIES

30. Production of biologicals in February was negligible, with activity centering around the production of diphtheria toxoid. The Bureau of Laboratories planned immediate initiation of a research program for making hightiter diphtheria toxin, toxoid (alum and formalin anatoxin) and antitoxin. The objective is 20,000,000 cc. of toxoid with which a large-scale immunization program could be conducted throughout South Korea.

31. An inspection of the National Institute for Veterinary Research at Pusan revealed the need for improvement of biological procedures and techniques in order to meet American standards. Demonstrations, written standards and actual testing of individual products, coupled with more frequent inspections of the laboratory, will be utilized to raise the standards.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

32. Seven representatives from the National Refugee Camps along the 38° parallel met in conference on 19 and 20 February in Seoul. Discussions centered around record clarification and improvement of technical aspects and procedures in camp welfare administration. The National Refugee Camps at Chongdan, Kaesong, Tosong, Tonduchon, Oijongbu, Chunchon and Chumunjin were represented.

33. The Bureau of Preventive Medicine has recommended 29 types of locally manufactured drugs for improvement of medical care for refugees in the 38° parallel refugee camps. Final arrangements for purchase of these drugs were made in February, with cost applied against the General Relief Bureau budget.

34. The agenda of the conference of Provincial Public Health and Welfare Bureau Chiefs on 16 and 17 February covered topics of current importance in the general relief program. The following welfare policies were discussed:

a. Welfare housing program for refugee families.

b. Problems of refugee resettlement and integration of family groups into normal community life.

c. Policies and sound procedures covering distribution of relief supplies.

d. Thorough investigation of applicants for public assistance on an individual basis.

e. Problems of welfare financing and proper use of welfare funds for general relief purposes.

f. Improvement in monthly statistical report of public assistance cases and expenditures.

35. Work has been started on providing for the care of mentally retarded children. Specialized care previously has not been available for this group. Many now are in institutions where they have no opportunity for careful, individualized instruction. Property was acquired in Seoul during February for the establishment of a national school for mentally retarded children, and plans are under way for essential repairs to the property. Basic literature on the feeble-minded has been studied, and group discussions have taken place to assist the staff of the National Bureau of Welfare Institutions and Agencies in planning for the school. It will not be possible to provide training for more than a small part of the mentally retarded children in South Korea. It will be feasible, however, to remove all retarded children from other institutions and provide them with special training to make them as socially well adjusted and economically independent as possible.

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SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

1. A conference of the Korean Directors of the Provincial Bureaus of Education was held in the Office of the Director of the Department of Education on 18-19 February. Problems discussed were organization of a Teachers Training Center; expansion of the adult education program; improvement of standards of teaching; student counseling services; drafting of middle school entrance examinations; and discussion of the potential value of youth organizations in the field of mass education. The Director also stressed the importance of accurate reporting of statistics by Korean educators, as these statistics are used by the Bureau of Research of the Department of Education in preparing surveys.

2. An Educational Movie Contest for South Korea, jointly sponsored by the Department of Education and the Office of Civil Information, will close on 1 April, the deadline for all entries. Scenarios may be submitted by Korean educators who are not authors or professional writers. Themes will emphasize democracy in education. Winners of the contest will be announced in June, when prizes will be awarded and the best scenario will be filmed and shown throughout the country.

3. A committee composed of Korean educators was appointed by the Director of the Department of Education to establish objectives for Korean education. Members are attempting to set up democratic educational principles which will be acceptable both to Americans and Koreans. The committee does not plan to impose these principles upon the Koreans without their taking part, not only in preliminary discussions, but in the ultimate formation of the principles and long-range objectives of education in Korea.

ADMINISTRATIONFinance

4. After discussions with the National Economic Board, it was agreed that tuitions in middle schools will be raised from 600 won to 1,800 won per year, effective 1 April 1948, in order to reduce the national subsidy. Increase of colleges' and universities' tuition from 360 won to 3,600 won per year was being contemplated. Effective 1 April 1948, no tuition will be charged elementary school students.